



# OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

October 17, 2008

GOM 2008-21

**TO:** Financial Aid Administrators

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**SUBJECT:** California Chafee Grant Program Update

This Operations Memo provides you with an update on the California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program (Chafee) for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

## 2008-09 Awards and Payments Status

As of today, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has awarded over \$12 million to 2,523 foster youth students for the 2008-09 academic year. Of these awarded students, the Commission was pleased to make 689 new grant awards and 1,834 renewal awards for the 2008-09 academic year. Last week, the Commission mailed the first fall term Chafee payments to your institutions by Federal Express, which all of you should have received this week.

Enclosed with the Chafee checks are individual School Payment Rosters that students sign verifying that they received their checks. This form is also used to provide the Commission with any address updates and contact information. Schools should also use this form when returning any checks as it provides us with the information for students who were not eligible. Please make sure to return these individual rosters to us so that we can update our records and keep our student information current. The Commission would appreciate you returning these rosters on a weekly basis so that staff can continue to process them and keep track of the disbursed checks. This tracking process will also assist us in monitoring the checks and following up with institutions to verify whether or not checks were disbursed to students and to assist us in better managing any returned checks. We appreciate your assistance in this process.

The Commission will continue to process 2008-09 awards on a weekly basis until all available federal and state funds are depleted. The Commission encourages schools to return any 2008-09 checks as soon as possible for students who are no longer eligible or who can not be located.



State of California  
Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

For more information you may contact us at:  
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**2007-08 Year End Status**

The Commission awarded over \$13.8 million in Chafee Grants to over 3,400 foster youth students for the 2007-08 federal fiscal year which ended September 30, 2008. The final 2007-08 awards have been processed and those checks will be mailed next week. Any funds returned for this past year will not be reissued to students and will be returned to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), as we are not authorized to process additional awards beyond September 30, 2008. Please make sure to return unused checks for ineligible students immediately so that they can be returned to CDSS.

**Stakeholder's Meeting**

The Commission would like to remind representatives of the financial aid community to participate in the California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Stakeholder's Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2008 (as mentioned in GSA 2008-31). Your input and participation is very valuable to the continued success of the Chafee award process. At the meeting, Stakeholders will review program administration strategies, including successes and challenges, and will engage in program planning for future academic years. We look forward to the opportunity to consider recommendations from Stakeholders regarding program enhancements and improvements.

**Contacting the Commission**

Schools may contact the Commission's Specialized Programs Operations Branch at (888) 224-7268, option 3, for questions regarding the content of this memo. Students may contact Student Support Services with general Chafee inquiries at (888) 224-7268. The Commission encourages students to use *WebGrants for Students* at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) to access account information.

Thank you for your continued partnership in serving these foster youth students.

*Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!*